

**Murray Arts Advisory Board
Minutes for August 17, 2010**

Attendance: Mildred Horton, Mary Black, John Madsen, Jen Davies, Judy Baxendale, Mary Ann Kirk (staff)

Excused: Kathleen Sorenson, Wendi Miller, Sharon Whitney, Elaine Judd

1. Minutes for May 10, 2010 were approved. We did not meet in June because of the Boards and Commission dinner and we did not have a quorum in July.
2. Upcoming schedule was reviewed including Seven Brides (Aug 18-28), Acoustic Music Festival (Sept 6), and Miss Murray Pageant (September 18). Mary Ann noted that the group who was trying to organize a concert series at the Murray Theater has focused their time and funding on a venue outside of Salt Lake County.
3. Jen Davies attended a training for teachers with RDT for a green mapping project. We need to find a few teachers who are willing to use the curriculum in their classroom. It does take time commitment within their curriculum classwork. RDT will then come in with a dance residency to help the students choreograph a movement piece related to their studies. Jen will visit Leesa Lloyd, the junior high teacher at Hillcrest, and Robin Griego at Longview. Mary Ann will visit with the elementary school principals. Jen will send Mary Ann a short description of the project and Mary Ann will have the district arts coordinator send it out to 3rd and 4th grade teachers. Jen said RDT is now asking for some funding. Mary Ann will check on this and may be able to budget some money toward the residency part of the project.
4. Mary Ann explained the state audit for ZAP funding. The report suggested Murray used some of their funds inappropriately. The statute says school districts are not eligible for ZAP money. The ZAP application allows recipients to apply for general operational funds that are not geared to one specific project. Murray uses this approach and lists a wide variety of activities and the music specialist funding as one part of that. We have included our music specialist project in the grant application for several years and no one has ever questioned that in the process. We reported \$28,000 in professional services that included Beauty and the Beast production staff, art assemblies, summer concerts, and the music specialists. The music specialists funding was \$46,000 which was mostly paid through city funds and matched by Murray School District. Mary Ann explained this funding is part of a collaborative project for music specialists as a way to implement some of our own projects and to provide the most effective ways to reach youth through arts in education activities in the classroom. Mary Ann said that many ZAP recipients use money to benefit schools and arts-in-education. She thought it was strange to interpret the statute in a way that prohibits arts-in-education which is the most effective way to reach school-age youth. She will follow how the legislature addresses the audit report.
5. Several theater people have visited the Murray Theater and feel the facility could handle a non-musical fairly easily. We may want to try this next year in the fall if we can keep the budget low and see if the attendance works to cover the costs. We would need to figure out where to rehearse and what the cost of the facility would be. This could be done in October before Halloween or January. Board members liked this idea.
6. County facility application process should be coming in September. Per request by Jared Shaver, the Mayor's office is going to organize a meeting to talk about the performing arts center and how to proceed. A decision needs to be made if and where the facility will be built before we finish our plans for the county facility grant application.

7. A sign will be made for the mural on the Jordan River walkway at the 5400 South underpass. Mary thought the mural was very nicely done. Mary Ann noted that there was some concern that identifying the special needs groups in the signage text created a negative label. Mary Ann didn't think it labeled anyone. Board members thought it gave a personal touch and added meaning to the project.
8. Mary Ann reported that the summer activities have been fairly stable. Arts in the Park season sales have been down. The gate sales are also down a little but are still covering the costs of the various shows. She will have a full report in September. The daytime attendance has been about the same as in the past. Marching band registration was up and the drama camp was down. The music competition only had one entry but it was a very good entry. The winner will be playing with the Symphony sometime this year. Mary Ann is looking at having a combined concert with Clayton Productions and Premier productions next year. She wants to keep advanced sales and allow them to keep gate sales. This is basically no risk to us since we wouldn't have to pay them with this arrangement. These are large groups and should bring in a good crowd. She noted that some people don't like these kinds of pop groups but the board felt it would be fine.
9. The winter season is ready to go. Considering the economy, Mary Ann recommended the price stay the same. Board members agreed.
10. Board members discussed potential plays for next year. Mary Ann said our groups have asked about Scarlet Pimpernel and West Side Story. We need to make sure we have one show that uses and appeals to kids. Mildred suggested we try to shorten the plays geared to children. Mary Ann explained we can't really cut parts of the play because of the contracts. We could start a little earlier in the August show but the sun is too high in June and July. We could do junior versions which are shorter but we can't use adult actors and then it becomes a high school production. Board members agreed we should try to give opportunities to the community, not just school kids who already have opportunities during the school year. Mary Ann noted that porta potties would help shorten the intermission.
11. Mary Ann reported that the city is eliminating the Haunted Trails and the Easter egg hunt. This impacts our literary competition which we have worked to build over the years. Board members wondered why they would cut out a program that is very successful. Mary Ann explained that the recreation department felt it took a lot of time. With reduced staff, they wanted to focus on programs that help develop skills. Mary felt the event did build skills because of the literary component. She wondered why we always have to focus on sports. Jen felt family time was an important element of the program. Mary Ann suggested these types of activities are offered by other groups. Mary said that no one else provides Halloween activities for younger children. Most are too scary.

Board members agreed we should try to continue the literary program. Dan Barr may be willing to allow a few winners to read their entries at their Halloween activities. Another option would be to have this in the cemetery although there are no lights. Mildred felt this contradicts our focus on cemetery etiquette. She suggested we do a formal program in the park around the fireplace. Jen suggested we could involve the high school kids in dressing up and telling stories. She thought we could still get some doughnuts and hot chocolate donated. We could set up tables in a semi circle or they could bring chairs to sit on. Board members liked the title of Haunted Tales and the Monday before Halloween. Mildred suggested we still talk to Dan Barr about the library programs if a few kids can't attend the Monday night program.